ROUND UP: KIER GROUP COMPLETES $405M MOUCHEL TAKEOVER

NEWS • ANALYSIS • INTELLIGENCE • PROJECTS • CONTRACTS • TENDERS

JUNE 13 - 19 2015 • ISSUE 568

CONSTRUCTION WEEK

AN ITP BUSINESS PUBLICATION

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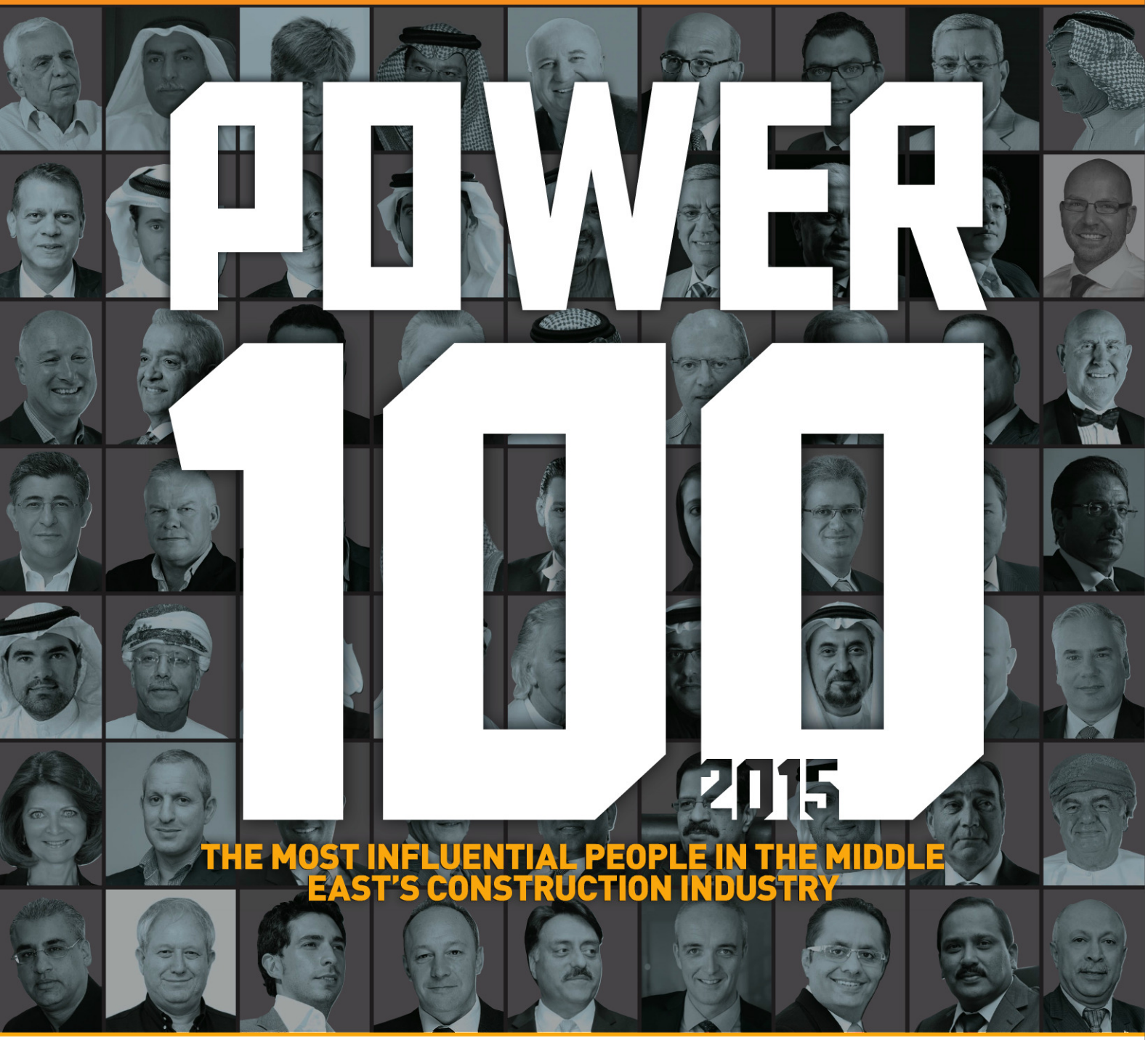

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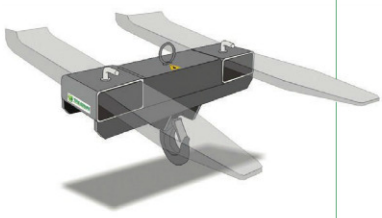
Platform



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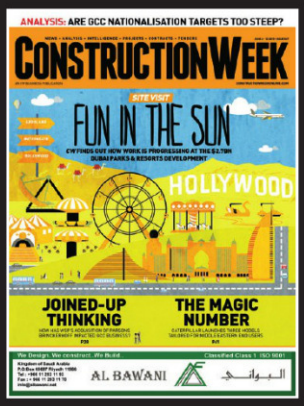
The most important project, contract and tender information, updated every week



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Sustainable Productivity

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The sugar refinery, due to be operational by 2018, is expected to kickstart Sohar Port and Freezone's development of a 'Food Cluster' at its premises.

Contract of note: Oman's Sohar Port and Freezone to get $250m sugar refinery

Oman Sugar Refinery Company (OSRC) has signed a design and construction agreement with China Light Industrial Corporation for Foreign Economic and Technical Cooperation for a $250m sugar refinery.

A separate contract worth $10m will be signed for the construction of a natural gas pipeline to meet the energy requirements of the project.

OSRC, whose main promoter is Nasser Ali Saif al Hosni, a Tanzania-based Omani businessman, has already signed a lease agreement with the port regarding a 180,000m^2 waterfront project location, according to the *Oman Daily Observer*.

Output is expected to be 700,000 tonnes during the first phase, and will be ramped up to 1m tonnes during the subsequent three years.

Commenting on the project, Sohar Port's executive commercial manager, Edwin Lammers, remarked: "Today's signing of the engineering-procurement-construction (EPC) contract for the sugar refinery project is significant for us because it represents the first development on the ground of an ambitious 'Food Cluster' envisioned at the port and freezone.

"With the sugar refinery project now set to move ahead, we will eventually see the development of a full-fledged 'Food Cluster' taking shape in Sohar Port. This will undoubtedly spur interest in Sohar as a destination for agri-industrial investments as well," he explained.

Construction work on the sugar refinery complex will commence later this year, soon after the Holy Month of Ramadan.

"The project is expected to be completed around 18 months after construction commences," Lammers concluded. CW

MEA construction growth forecast

The Middle East and Africa (MEA) region's construction industry will grow by 6.9% annually in 2016-20, according to Timetric's Construction Intelligence Center (CIC).

The predicted rate of growth, which is higher than the 4.9% average achieved between 2011-15, is expected to be driven in by regional investment in major infrastructure initiatives.

Sina Zavertha, economist at CIC, said: "Much of this will be driven by massive investment in infrastructure, particularly rail networks; both mass transit metro systems in major cities and intra-regional rail links."

The report identified Jeddah's Kingdom Tower and Dubai's Marina 101 as important projects currently underway in the region.

Bayti Homes ready ahead of schedule

Al Hamra Real Estate Development announced it is nearing completion on a part of its luxury residences project, Bayti Homes, at Al Hamra Village, Ras Al Khaimah.

Finishing works will begin once structural and block work for the homes is complete. 80 of the units are expected to be ready for owners to move into in November 2015 – one month ahead of the original schedule.

The Bayti segment of Al Hamra Village will comprise a total of 162 three- and four-bedroom villas, and will also include a district cooling facility.

Al Hamra Village will occupy a space of 710ha, and will include 1.5km of beach area, 1,000 villas and town homes, 2,500 residential apartments, and five hotels.

Sheikh Mohammed backs $980m housing projects

Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, approved new housing projects in the Emirate during his visit to the premises of Mohammed bin Rashid Housing Establishment (MRHE) in Dubai.

Besides approving housing projects worth $980.1m (AED3.6bn), Sheikh Mohammed also received updates on construction loans issued between 2007 and 2014.

The total paid amounts for the construction loans registered $789.5m (AED2.9bn), while maintenance loans reached $12.6m (AED46.5m), state agency *WAM* reported.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is the Ruler of Dubai.

The Ruler was also briefed on MRHE's initiatives for maintenance of housing complexes older than 10 years, and refurbishing houses damaged due to contingencies. Sheikh Mohammed reviewed MRHE projects from 2007 to 2014. The 16 accomplished projects included 4,368 houses with a total cost of $1.3bn (AED4.8bn).

For up-to-the-minute **tenders** log on to **constructionweekonline.com**

TOP TENDERS

Design, construction, operation & maintenance of residential area at Nizwa industrial estate
Country: Oman
Closes: Jun 14, 2015
Category: Buildings
Issuer: Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (PEIE)

Supply & install of generator set & related works in Khanurah at north Batinah governorate
Country: Oman
Closes: Jun 14, 2015
Category: Buildings
Issuer: Ministry of Health

Refurbishment works in directorate-general of HR development at Wattayah-Muscat governorate
Country: Oman
Closes: Jun 14, 2015
Category: Buildings
Issuer: Ministry of Health

General civil maintenance works QAFCO plant-frame contract for five years
Country: Qatar
Closes: Jun 14, 2015
Category: Power & Water
Issuer: Qatar Fertiliser Company (QAFCO)

Development of the intersection between Bathaa road and Dalaa Al Janoubi ring road in Riyadh
Country: Saudi Arabia
Closes: Jun 15, 2015
Category: Infrastructure
Issuer: Ministry of Transport

Opening and maintenance of roads in Baha 30/06/2015 – 36-month project
Country: Saudi Arabia
Closes: Jun 15, 2015
Category: Infrastructure
Issuer: Ministry of Transport

Hail Rafhaa road (Hail) 143km
Country: Saudi Arabia
Closes: Jun 15, 2015
Category: Infrastructure
Issuer: Ministry of Transport

Saudi Arabian contractors are worried about a slowdown caused by summer work-hour restrictions.

RTA looks to US firms for PPP deals

HE Mattar Al Tayer, director general and chairman of the board of executive directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), met with HE Arun Kumar, assistant secretary of commerce for global markets at US Department of Commerce, to explore the scope for American firms to work on Dubai Metro, rail, roads, and other transport projects.

Al Tayer said: "Over the next few years, the RTA will be embarking on the construction and operation of rail projects costing billions of dirhams.

"We are contemplating releasing such projects on the basis of the public-private partnership (PPP) model."

Summer work hours concern KSA firms

Contractors in Saudi Arabia have claimed the Kingdom's Ministry of Labour's decision to ban employees from working during summer peak hours will increase project costs by 8-10%.

Additional time will be required to ensure project completion, since productivity levels and the amount of work undertaken during night-time construction shifts will not be the same as during the day.

The new work-hour schedule will span a total of 93 days.

Changing the working hours from day to night during summer will require some companies to reorganise their project sites, experts told *Arab News*.

Good Week/Bad Week

Bloom Properties
will offer 188 apartments for sale

UAE
slates houses and road projects

Mohebi Logistics
breaks ground at DWC facility

Qatar
bribery charges rattle World Cup 2022

FIFA
reputation tainted by FBI arrests

Sepp Blatter
Hyundai welcomes ex-chief's resignation

For up-to-the-minute tenders log on to **constructionweekonline.com**

TOP TENDERS

Maintenance and cleaning of one of the ministry buildings in the Eastern region
Country: Saudi Arabia
Closes: Jun 15, 2015
Category: Buildings
Issuer: General Directorate of Investigation

Maintenance of gardens and parks
Country: Saudi Arabia
Closes: Jun 15, 2015
Category: Infrastructure
Issuer: Secretariat of Assir - Municipality of Naqee

Supply of concrete fences for the protection of a ministry building in Taif
Country: Saudi Arabia
Closes: Jun 15, 2015
Category: Buildings
Issuer: General Directorate of Investigation

Municipality buildings and public facilities, Jubail (equipping the laboratory)
Country: Saudi Arabia
Closes: Jun 16, 2015
Category: Buildings
Issuer: Municipality of Jubail

Opening, leveling and maintaining the earth roads in Holy Makkah region
Country: Saudi Arabia
Closes: Jun 18, 2015
Category: Infrastructure
Issuer: Ministry of Transport

Design and supervision of roads and intersections of railway stations
Country: Saudi Arabia
Closes: Jun 18, 2015
Category: Infrastructure
Issuer: Ministry of Transport

Supply and installation of generators in North West in Jeddah Islamic Port
Country: Saudi Arabia
Closes: Jun 23, 2015
Category: Power & Water
Issuer: Jeddah Islamic Port

Consultancy services for designing and supervision of Kahf Al Kitan in Wilayat Ibri
Country: Oman
Closes: Jun 24, 2015
Category: Infrastructure
Issuer: The Ministry of Tourism

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CONTRACT AWARDS

Damac inks $762m of deals

Real estate developer Damac Properties has awarded $762m (AED2.8bn) in construction contracts during the first five months of 2015.

Awards include the main works packages on more than 1,500 villas within its luxury lifestyle community, Akoya Oxygen; three new apartment blocks at Akoya by Damac; and main contracts for three of its hotel apartment projects: Damac Maison Privé, Naia Vantage, and Naia Celestia.

Ghantoot Gulf Contracting has been awarded the package to build 981 villas at Akoya Oxygen. Seidco General Contracting, meanwhile, has been awarded the contract to build three G+7 complexes at Akoya by Damac, with Pivot Engineering receiving a main works package for the 239 villas in Akoya Park.

Ali Mohamed Sadek Al Baloshi, chairman of Ghantoot Group, said: "This is the second project on which we are cooperating with Damac Properties. This demonstrates the size of the partnership between the two companies."

Ali Sadeq Al Baloushi of Ghantoot Gulf Contracting (left) with Mohammed Tahaineh of Damac Properties.

Civilco Civil Engineering & Contracting has been awarded the main package to build Naia Celestia in the Dubai World Central District. Damac Maison Privé will be built by Seidco General Contracting and a contract for Naia Vantage has been awarded to Reem Capital Contracting.

Mohammed Tahaineh, senior VP of commercial at Damac, said: "These awards go a long way to showing our confidence in the Dubai real estate market, and they will ensure a strong pipeline of deliveries."

In addition to the main work packages awarded, Damac Properties has also awarded contracts for the construction of the clubhouse at the Trump International Golf Club, Dubai. This project will be located at the Akoya master development within Dubailand.

Seidco General Contracting has commenced work on site. Jazeera Emirates Power has also initiated operations at a second substation within the 400ha lifestyle community.

Expert Views

GCC construction report: Infra projects of $21bn expected for Qatar in 2015

Infrastructure projects worth an estimated $21bn (QAR76.45bn) are expected to be awarded in Qatar this year.

According to Deloitte's latest research note on the region's construction sector, *'Deloitte GCC Powers of Construction 2015'*, Qatar Rail's 'QIRP: Passenger & Freight Rail', is budgeted at $15bn (QAR54.61bn), and QIRP 'Passenger & Freight Rail: Phase 2' is budgeted at $3bn (QAR10.92bn). These are the two largest projects in pre-execution phase, and are expected to be awarded this year.

According to *The Peninsula*, two mega projects are expected to be awarded in 2015: a project for one of the three new planned economic zones focusing on logistics and air freight companies, which is budgeted at $3bn; and Occidental Petroleum Corporation (Oxy) – Idd e Shargi North Dome Expansion Phase 5, which is budgeted for $3bn.

This year looks to be another key indicator of economic development as the GCC continues to invest in infrastructure and capital projects. The forecast for projects planned and underway in the GCC in 2015 is the highest on record to date, standing at $172bn, the annual report said.

Qatar's population expansion will require energy and water – a 34% increase in electricity generation capacity and a further 2.2bn litres desalination capacity are required by 2020.

"The forecast of $172bn worth of projects are against a backdrop of lower oil prices, continuing political unrest, and reduced International Monetary Fund (IMF) growth forecasts across the GCC," said Deloitte's Cynthia Corby.

Net income

$67m

2014

Asset value

+10%

2014

Solidere records $67m net income

Lebanese real estate developer Solidere International recorded a marked increase in net income, which neared $67m in 2014, the company announced during its annual general meeting held on 1 June, 2015 at its Dubai headquarters.

The company's asset value also rose by 10%. The growth is attributed to the steady progress in Solidere's construction projects, and the favourable economic conditions of the GCC.

Dr Nasser Chammaa, chairman of SI, remarked: "The results reflect our solid development polices, which are based on a deep market insight and expertise in real estate development.

"Our experience helps us systematically identify the right real estate product for each market," he added.

Acquisition

2007

Doosan bought Bobcat

Sale value

$123m

The amount Joy paid for Montabert

Doosan sells French unit for $123m

Doosan Infracore had sold its wholly-owned subsidiary, Montabert – the French quarrying equipment maker and hydraulic hammer specialist – for $123m to US-based Joy Global.

Doosan said in a statement that it is selling non-core assets to focus on its main businesses, and would use the funds to pay down refinanced debt on US-based heavy equipment manufacturer Bobcat, which Doosan Group acquired in 2007.

Joy Global CEO, Ted Doheny, said: "Despite tough markets, we remain committed to improving our business during this cyclical downturn and bolstering our strategic position as a first-tier supplier to the underground hard-rock mining market."

"The Montabert product line will complement our existing fleet of hard rock equipment," he concluded.

MOHEBI LOGISTICS BREAKS GROUND ON DWC FACILITY

Mohebi Logistics, a subsidiary of Mohebi Investments, has broken ground on its $150m (AED550m) facility in Dubai World Central (DWC), UAE.

The Dubai-based firm's new hub will be spread over 206,000m^2 of land, and will boast a storage capacity of 180,000 pallet positions.

The facility, which is scheduled to complete before the end of 2016, will double Mohebi's existing storage and logistics capabilities, the company has revealed.

BLOOM PROPERTIES OFFERS HOTEL APARTMENTS TO MARKET

Abu Dhabi-based real estate developer Bloom Properties will offer furnished hotel apartments for sale at its Park View mixed-use development in Saadiyat in Abu Dhabi.

The project guarantees net yield of 7% per annum for the first three years of operation.

Rotana Hotel Management will operate the development under an agreement signed with Bloom Properties earlier this year.

Prices for the hotel apartments start at $231,421 (AED 850,000).

Update

Top 10 power projects in the GCC

Source: *Ventures Middle East*

PROJECT NAME	STATUS	PROJECT VALUE($M)
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN ABU DHABI	Construction	20,000
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT (UAE LOCATION TO BE DECIDED)	Concept Stage	15,000
COAL FIRED POWER PLANTS IN DUBAI	Feasibility Study	7,500
SUBSTATION IN ABU DHABI	Feasibility Study	5,000
INDEPENDENT WATER AND POWER PLANT IN ADDUR	Construction	4,000
YANBU POWER GENERATION AND DESALINATION PLANT - PHASE 3	Tender for Construction Contract	4,000
FOUR NUCLEAR REACTORS IN KUWAIT	Feasibility Study	4,000
POWER AND WATER PLANT IN RAS AL ZOUR	Construction	3,880
RAS LAFFAN C INDEPENDENT WATER & POWER PROJECT	Construction	3,700
2,600MW RABIGH POWER PLANT – PHASE 6	Construction	3,420

ABU DHABI

BM to build 500 new units

The residential complex will contain one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments with a selection of amenities.

Global contracting company, Brookfield Multiplex, has been appointed main contractor for 500 new residential units being built in Masdar City, Abu Dhabi.

The residential complex will contain both one- and two-bedroom apartments, with amenities that will be built and leased.

Construction of the units within the development is scheduled to begin by September 2015, and is expected to be completed by the second quarter of next year.

"The units will be built to LEED Gold, Estidama 3 Pearl standards and will include a gym, retail facilities, prayer room, and landscaping."

"The apartments will be within walking distance of the heart of Masdar City," Masdar City Director Anthony Mallows told *Construction Week*.

Mallows refused to divulge the total value of the development. Representatives from Brookfield Multiplex also declined to comment when asked about the project.

In addition to working on the expansion of its first residential property project, Masdar is expected to receive two new schools, the Emirates College of Technology (ECT), and GEMS Education within its premises in the near future.

"ECT's permanent campus will include laboratories, workshops, study rooms, a library, an auditorium and a sports hall," Mallows said.

"GEMS Education will offer a premium UK curriculum at the kindergarten, primary and secondary education level," he added.

Qatar's FIFA World Cup 2022 in doubt

Russia and Qatar could lose the 2018 and 2022 World Cups respectively if evidence of bribery emerges, according to FIFA official Domenico Scala.

While admitting that he has not seen evidence of corruption, Scala, the head of FIFA's audit and compliance committee, said: "Should there be evidence that the awards to Qatar and Russia came only because of bought votes, then the awards could be cancelled."

Seven senior FIFA officials were arrested in May 2015 at a Zurich hotel, where they had been staying ahead of the FIFA presidential election.

KEF announces plant in Dubai

KEF Holdings has announced plans to open a manufacturing facility in Jebel Ali, Dubai.

The UAE-based holding company, which produces construction-related products for use within the healthcare and hospitality sectors, expects operations to commence at the plant before the end of 2015.

KEF has stated that the UAE manufacturing hub will enable it to expand its prefabricated, off-site offerings.

Faizal E Kottikollon, chairman and founder of KEF Holdings, said: "KEF Holdings aims to contribute in the Emirate's growth story by introducing economically sustainable solutions."

SPOT POLL

Will Qatar lose hosting rights for FIFA World Cup 2022?

29.1%	29.1%	41.8%
Yes	Maybe	Yes

SPOT PRICES

Latest metal prices from the markets

STEEL

$150 ▼

* Source: London Metal Exchange, price per tonne

COPPER

$5,915 ▼

* Source: London Metal Exchange, price per tonne

ALUMINIUM

$1,695 ▼

* Source: London Metal Exchange, price per tonne

NICKEL

$13,095 ▲

* Source: London Metal Exchange, price per tonne

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ACQUISITIONS

Kier completes $405m Mouchel takeover

Kier Group has completed its $405.3m (£265m) takeover of consulting engineering firm, Mouchel. The announcement was made on 8 June, 2015.

Mouchel was previously taken over by its lending banks in 2012 after collapsing into administration. Former shareholders were paid "just a penny" per share at the time.

The company had earlier rejected takeover bids from both Costain and Interserve, despite the fact that the firms offered up to $2 (£1.35) per share.

Mouchel's highest valued offer at the time was $267.6m (£175m). Kier completed a $520m (£340m) rights issue to finance the acquisition earlier this month. The combined company will boast a $14.2bn (£9.3bn) order book.

Kier's chief executive officer Haydn Mursell, said: "The successful acquisition of Mouchel now positions Kier as a sector leader in the growing UK highways maintenance and management market.

"In particular, the acquisition enables the group to capitalise on £17bn ($26.35bn) of investment in the strategic road network to be delivered through Highways England over the next five years."

Kier's decision to acquire Mouchel was announced in April 2015. Mouchel is recognised as the provider of repair and maintenance services to the UK motorway and trunk road network, according to *building.co.uk*.

Mouchel was active in the region until 2009, when it announced its intention to pull out of the market. The business went through an administration procedure in 2012 when it was bought back by a new vehicle known as MRBL Ltd – the entity now acquired by Kier.

Mouchel was appointed project manager for Dubai Waterfront.

In Quotes

"It is very difficult to predict the future trends of oil price in the region and the impact that any protracted volatility will have on the market,"

WAEL ALLAN, Arcadis

"Aligning the industry to ensure all parties and stakeholders work together effectively is where the challenge is presented,"

KEZ TAYLOR, Alec

"Resource retention is a challenge. We predict that over the coming year, it will be even tougher to attract the best talent to the region,"

DONNA SULTAN, KEO

"The UAE has freed its economy from the impact of oil shocks. Even I am not concerned about the current oil price,"

MOAFAQ AL GADDAH
MAG Group

Around the GCC

1. OMAN

Cat launches trio of machines in Oman

Caterpillar's Oman dealer, Muscat-based Oasis Trading & Equipment, recently launched the Cat 14L all-wheel drive (AWD) motor grader, the 950 GC wheel loader, and the 340D2 L excavator. A test site was established along with virtual reality simulators, so that Omani customers could experience the machines' capabilities first-hand. "The Middle East is a tough region in which to operate," said Caterpillar's, Gary Martin. "So the key is reliability – it's all-important.There is also a wide range of work across this part of the world, so any machinery needs to be able to cope with a large variety of demands."

2. UAE

Q3 2015 handover for Amity School

Shapoorji Pallonji has reached the final phase of construction at Amity International School in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The Dubai-based contractor will officially hand over the school in September, and is confident that the facility will be ready to welcome its first cohort of pupils at the start of the 2015/16 academic year. Amity International School will operate under the direction of the Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC), and cater to more than 800 Abu Dhabi youngsters.

3. SAUDI ARABIA

Talent shortage in KSA market

Rami Khalid AlTurki, CEO of Alturki Holding, told *Construction Week* that the main challenge for the company is to find and retain talented employees for the firm, especially Saudis. He commented: "The economy is growing and we require more talent. Finding skilled labour remains an obstacle in our field." Alturki Holding has its own training institute in Dammam, where it provides skill-based training for its employees once they have been hired.

4. QATAR

Hyundai welcomes Blatter departure

South Korean automaker Hyundai Motor Company joined other major FIFA corporate sponsors in welcoming the resignation of president Sepp Blatter. The company called the move a "positive first step" for football's scandal-wracked governing body.

5. KUWAIT

Tanzifco drives awareness

Tanzifco Emirates, the UAE-branch of the Kuwait-based FM group, recently organised and ran an environmental awareness campaign in the lead-up to World Environment Day. Ali Deryan, the firm's GM, said: "At Tanzifco, our chief mission is to preserve the environment and we achieve this by offering a comprehensive range of high-quality soft services, as well as hard FM Services, through CFM Facilities Management Services LLC."

BUSINESS

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Top 85 floors of Kingdom Tower will go unoccupied

The top 85 floors of Jeddah's under-construction marvel, Kingdom Tower, will go unoccupied, as they are too narrow for apartments or offices, international reports suggest.

UK daily *The Guardian* explained: "While the Kingdom Tower promises to house 121 serviced apartments, 360 residential apartments, a 200-room Four Seasons hotel, and much office space to boot, its top 85 floors will go unoccupied as they are too narrow for apartments or offices.

"Some [of those floors] will house plant machinery and communications equipment," continued the report.

Upon completion, Kingdom Tower will be at least 1km tall, thus stealing the crown of the world's tallest building from Dubai's 828m-tall Burj Khalifa.

The Guardian's report adds Kingdom Tower's developers will not be too perturbed by how long the tower takes to "fill up".

"In truth, the developers are probably not that bothered if their tower takes time to fill up – this is often the case when exceptionally tall, speculative towers are marketed," it said.

"The Empire State Building took two decades to fill with tenants."

The top 85 floors of Kingdom Tower are believed to be too narrow for use.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Qatar: Nothing will impact WC 2022 preparations

In an ongoing environment of speculation, FIFA states that there are "no legal grounds" to withdraw the planned 2018 and 2022 World Cup events from Russia and Qatar.

Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy stated last week: "The recent events at FIFA will not impact our preparations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup."

According to CNN, FIFA said: "Russia and Qatar were awarded the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cups by democratic vote of the Executive Committee. Based on expert opinions and available facts, FIFA has no legal grounds to take away the hosting of the World Cup events from Russia and Qatar."

It declined to comment further, stating: "We will not speculate on possible scenarios and therefore have no further comments for the time being."

This flies in the face of comments made to a Swiss newspaper, by Domenico Scala, FIFA's compliance committee chief.

He is reported to have said: "Should evidence be present that the awarding to Qatar and Russia only came about with bought votes, then the awarding could be void."

On 27 May, 2015, racketeering charges were laid against 14 people by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The accused included nine current and former FIFA executives, with seven people arrested near the organisation's headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland.

As part of a separate criminal investigation into the 2018 and 2022 World Cup bids, Swiss authorities also seized documents from FIFA offices.

MATERIALS

Dubai signs ready-mix technical equivalency deal

The Dubai Central Laboratory of the Dubai Municipality (DCL-DM) has signed a cooperative agreement with the US-based National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA) to recognise the technical equivalency of their concrete plant and truck certification programmes.

NRMCA will now offer certificates to all concrete plants operating in Dubai that have received the DCL-DM plant and truck certification, without the need for additional audit.

Hawa Bastaki, director of the DCL-DM, said: "We are proud to be signing this agreement with NRMCA. Now concrete companies in Dubai will not only be able to demonstrate their commitment to quality through the DCL-DM programme, but also

take advantage of the internationally-recognised NRMCA certification."

Lionel Lemay, Sr VP of the NRMCA, added: "NRMCA recognises the excellent work Dubai Central Laboratory has done to develop its ready-mixed concrete plant and truck certification programme as a way to elevate the performance and quality of concrete production in Dubai, and we look forward to a long-term partnership on this programme and other NRMCA certifications in the future."

NRMCA has been administering its plant and truck certification programme since 1930 in compliance with US standards for ready mixed concrete. The DCL-DM programme, meanwhile, works on similar principals to meet similar standards for concrete production in Dubai.

The certification processes for these programmes require extensive on-site inspection by qualified individuals of both plant and delivery vehicles, and the certifications are valid for just one year, according to local state news agency *WAM*.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Flowcrete ME partners with Saudi Arabia airport

Flowcrete Middle East has partnered with the King Abdulaziz International Airport (KAIA) on its master plan to enhance infrastructure and increase passenger capacity. The flooring company is expected to supply 60ha of its high-performance deck coating systems, Deckshield ID and Deckshield ED, to the Saudi Arabian airport.

KAIA's expansion project, which is expected to be completed by 2035, will deliver additional runways, a transportation centre, and a 136m-high control tower, as well as a 67ha passenger complex. These additional areas will enable the facility to manage between 70-80m passengers per year.

Flowcreate's deck coating systems will be deployed as a hard-wearing floor finish in the expansion's car park areas.

Flowcrete Middle East's managing director, Vik Vithlani, said: "The strong bond with which Deckshield adheres to the substrate is an important part of its ability to prevent floor failure.

"To prove its strength, the Deckshield that has been applied on site has already undergone adhesion testing. The results of these tests are very good and the KAIA can be confident of achieving a long-lasting finish throughout its new car park," he added.

Deckshield boasts a full polyurethane formulation, which makes it a highly resilient flooring system, according to Flowcrete. By combining a polyurethane top coat with a polyurethane primer, the flooring is less brittle than systems utilising an epoxy primer. As a result, the product can better withstand the pressure of multi-flow traffic.

"Flowcrete Middle East's Deckshield car park coatings have been designed to provide a colourful floor finish that will optimise the space through benefits such as slip resistance, tyre-squeal reduction, substrate protection, and navigational signage," Vithlani added.

Crane manufacturer Tadano recently shipped its 1,000th GR-800EX model.

MACHINERY

Tadano ships 1,000th GR-800EX rough-terrain crane

Tadano has shipped its 100th GR-1000XL/800EX – a large rough-terrain crane that has proved popular in the Middle East the manufacturer started production. The crane's rounded boom, made of lightweight high-strength, high-tensile steel, – makes it one of the longest in its class at 53.9m.

The GR-1000XL/800EX was introduced to the market under chaotic circumstances, after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake cut off a large part of the supply chain for Tadano in its first sales year, resulting in a shut-down of the assembly line and significant delays to the timeline of deliveries to customers.

Despite significant fluctuations in the exchange rate of the Japanese yen – which has had a negative impact on exports from the country – sales of the GR-800EX model have remained high, and the customer response positive.

At an event to mark the shipment, Koichi Tadano, president and CEO of the manufacturer, commented: "The Great East Japan Earthquake cut off Tadano's supply chain, which caused a one-time shutdown of our assembly line at Shido Plant.

"However, our customers waiting for the delivery of our products, as well as our employees who used all of their efforts, have both overcome that crisis to arrive at this day of commemoration."

JAMES MORGAN

Decisions, decisions

Allow me to explain why 100 is not as big a number as you might imagine

I won't lie to you – compiling *Construction Week*'s 2015 Power 100 has been a little problematic. Just one month after taking over as editor, I have been tasked with identifying the most influential players in the Middle East's construction industry.

Fortunately, I haven't had to shoulder this burden of responsibility alone. Even before I moved from my previous position as editor of *PMV*, I could hear the *CW* team engaging in almost-daily arguments about construction professionals who deserved to make the final cut.

Rather naively, I had imagined that the assignment of rankings would represent the most difficult aspect of the process. Don't get me wrong, it wasn't easy. By its very nature, influence is a hard concept to pin down. Choosing between one person and another for a particular spot becomes even more challenging when a number of diverse – and vociferous – opinions are thrown into the mix.

The hardest aspect, however, was cutting our initial list down to size. Initially, 100 sounded like such a large number; I wasn't even sure that I knew 100 people. But when I began to consider the sheer volume of projects either planned or underway in the Middle East, it soon became apparent that our list's scope would barely scratch the surface.

I don't recall the exact number of people included on our draft line-up, but I do know that it was close to double the required number. Every person in contention seemed to have a solid claim to be included in the 2015 Power 100.

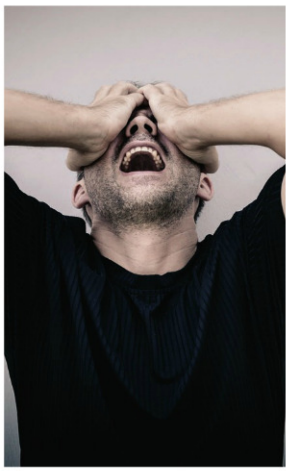
So how did we decide? Well, essentially, we took the professional decision to increase the rate of arguments from almost-daily to twice-daily. Clearly, some members of the 2015 cohort are perennial favourites, but as the Power 100 progresses, the prevalence of new entries increases proportionally.

The latter half of the magazine is awash with first timers and familiar faces that were absent from the last edition. People can sometimes be a little sensitive about numbers towards the end. In fairness, it's the nature of the beast.

Nevertheless, as somebody who's been intimately involved in the making of the list, I would like to point out that each name and face published in this magazine is deserving of the industry's applause. The projects that they are helping to deliver are occasionally breathtaking, frequently important, and constantly impressive.

So, at the risk of sounding like a new-age gym teacher, everybody on this list is a winner. And not just because we say so. They are proven winners, securing contracts, delivering projects, and continuously reshaping the face of the Middle East.

Powerful though these construction experts are within their professional spheres, they are even more so when it comes to the influence that they hold over the future of the region. CW



"At the risk of sounding like a new-age gym teacher, everybody on this list is a winner..."

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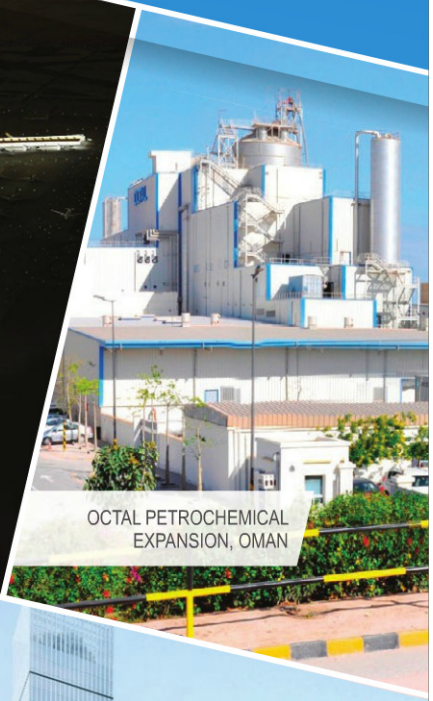
THE ROYAL ATLANTIS RESORT, DUBAI

KING ABDUL AZIZ INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SAUDI ARABIA



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JUMEIRA BAY, DUBAI

FOUR SEASONS, ABU DHABI

DOHA OASIS, QATAR

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POWER 100 2015

CONSTRUCTION WEEK'S ANNUAL RANKING OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Welcome to the sixth *Construction Week* Power 100, our annual review of the most influential figures currently operating within the Middle East's construction sector. This is a celebration of those who are shaping both the industry, and the regional landscape.

True to its roots, this year's list is dominated by powerhouses from across the GCC. Interestingly, however, it also contains a selection of figures from the wider Middle East. Construction professionals from countries including Egypt, Lebanon and Turkey have all made the cut.

This geographic spread is indicative of the level of activity currently taking place within the region. Any uncertainty about the future doesn't appear to be hampering the developments of today.

Those who've taken an interest in *CW*'s previous Power 100 lists will notice a particularly healthy number of contractors in the latest iteration. During the last 12 months, the Middle East has enjoyed an optimistic developer outlook, especially within the GCC.

This environment has improved the prospects of the region's contractors, with greater numbers of opportunities to participate in landmark construction and infrastructure projects.

This year's listees are certainly an optimistic bunch, but they are also exercising a healthy degree of caution within their day-to-day business activities. Owing in no small part to the fluctuating price of global oil during the last year, many construction companies have chosen to realign their operations and prioritise their core competencies.

Indeed, the last 365 days have brought with them an array of high-profile mergers, acquisitions and divestments, which in turn have altered the make-up of the 2015 Power 100.

The *CW* team has spent months researching, arguing, and ultimately compiling this list, and the final rankings are based on the best information available. That being said, influence is an enigmatic concept, and the 2015 Power 100 is representative of our collective – yet subjective – views on those who hold the most sway.

Like all good journalists, we welcome opinions that differ from our own, so if you feel that you've been overlooked, get in touch. We're already on the hunt for next year's new entries.

Bakr Bin Laden

CHAIRMAN, SAUDI BINLADIN GROUP

001

Bakr Bin Laden has secured the number-one spot on *Construction Week*'s Power 100 list for the second year in a row, and with good reason. Bin Laden has spent the last 27 years at the helm of the GCC's largest contracting company, Saudi BinLadin Group (SBG), which was founded by his father, Mohammed, in 1931.

You name it, SBG has built it. As the Saudi royal family's builder of choice for more than 60 years, the firm's portfolio boasts an array of airports, hospitals, universities, and high-profile projects in the holy cities of Makkah and Medina.

The contractor has completed numerous projects elsewhere in the Middle East, not to mention Africa and Asia, but the Kingdom remains its core market.

After signing a $1bn (SAR3.75bn) deal with Kingdom Holding Group in 2014, SBG became responsible for the construction of Jeddah's Kingdom Tower, a 1km-high behemoth that will grow to become the world's tallest skyscraper.

In April 2015, the family-owned construction giant won the contract to carry out early-stage works at Nshama's Town Square, an affordable housing development situated in Dubai, UAE. As part of the contract, SBG will deliver the first phase of deep services, conducting excavation and backfilling applications for the pipes that will supply district cooling for the community's Zahra and Hayat Townhouses. This work is expected to take 180 days to complete.

Back on home turf, May saw SBG scoop the main construction contract for Makkah's $3.5bn (SAR13.12bn) Abraj Kudai, which is set to become the world's largest hotel. During the same month, the contractor began marketing a 364-day sukuk, designed to raise up to $265m (SAR994m) for its coffers.

Impressively, all of this has transpired since Bakr Bin Laden last nabbed the Power 100 top spot in 2014. If the SBG president's next 12 months prove as eventful, it's going to take some tough competition indeed to unseat him.

"Bin Laden has spent the last 27 years at the helm of [SBG]..."

$3.5BN

The value of the contract awarded to SBG for the construction of Abraj Kudai in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

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002

Yu Tao

MIDDLE EAST CEO, CHINA STATE CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING CORPORATION

For the past 11 years, Yu Tao has been in charge of China State Construction Engineering Co's operations in the Middle East. In 2004, he moved from Singapore to Dubai to oversee the company's activities at the Palm Jumeirah project. Since then, Tao has helped to leverage strong resources and experience, winning a selection of technically-difficult and challenging projects.

CSCEC expects to achieve revenues of $500m in 2015, a 16.5% increase on last year. It has 12 mega projects under construction across the region, with an estimated total value of $2.45bn. The company is actively involved in the UAE's construction industry, carrying out many flagship projects, including the $163m (AED600m) Palm Jumeirah Garden, $163m (AED600m) Mirdif Apartments, $410m (AED1.5bn) City of Lights, $245m (AED900m) Viceroy Hotel, and a host of other projects within the Emirates.

Over the next 12 months, CSCEC will be involved in a number of other initiatives, including work at Abu Dhabi International Airport's Midfield Terminal Building, the South Shamkha Infrastructure at Abu Dhabi lot 3, and the National Bank of Kuwait's new high-rise headquarters. In addition, CSCEC views the fall in global oil prices as an opportunity to engage in more public-private partnerships. Commenting on the commercial benefits that it can offer, a spokesperson said: "We're a Chinese, state-owned enterprise, which means the company could help local partners with financing and investment by introducing bank funds from China."

"[CSCEC] could help local partners with financing..."

$500M

CSCEC's projected revenue for 2015

Khaled Musaed El Seif

CHAIRMAN, EL SEIF

003

Khaled Musaed El Seif is confident that the company that bears his family name will sustain itself as one of the largest and most trusted contracting players in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

El Seif Engineering Contracting was established in 1975, more than 20 years after the establishment of its parent company, El Seif Group, which focused on commerce and transport.

Under Khaled Musaed El Seif's leadership, the firm has grown to employ more than 40,000 staff members. Today, it caters to both construction and maintenance applications, with a particular focus on hospital projects, related equipment supply, and tall-tower developments.

El Seif is currently working on some of the most high-profile projects in the region, including packages for Saudi Arabia's Princess Nora bint Abdul Rahman University for women, and King Abdullah Financial District, and a major contract for the New Doha International Airport in Qatar. Other significant projects have included Kingdom Tower. In April, the company landed a $1.4bn (SAR5.25bn) Saudi housing deal to build 2,800 villas.

Growing resources, expanding activities, and increasing involvement in regional property development means the firm's role in the region's progress is becoming ever-more significant. However, its chairman's influence and activities stretch far beyond construction; he has been active in a host of committees, councils and delegations to promote international trade.

For example, El Seif's work has included stints on the Saudi Committee for the Development of International Trade at the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry. He has also been involved with the Saudi-British Joint Business Council and the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce in London, and various other organisations. He continues to serve on the boards of numerous KSA and international companies, in addition to steering the future growth of the El Seif Group.

"[El Seif employs] more than 40,000 staff members"

$1.4BN

The value of a Saudi Arabian housing deal secured by El Seif in April of this year

Ghassan Merherbi

MANAGING DIRECTOR,
ARABIAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY (ACC)

Ghassan Merhebi has been a major force within Arabian Construction Company (ACC) for 49 years. The firm is currently involved in some of the largest projects in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE.

These include, but are not limited to, the PepsiCo factory in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the Sheikh Khalifa Mosque in Al Ain, UAE, and the Fountain Views projects in Downtown Dubai, UAE.

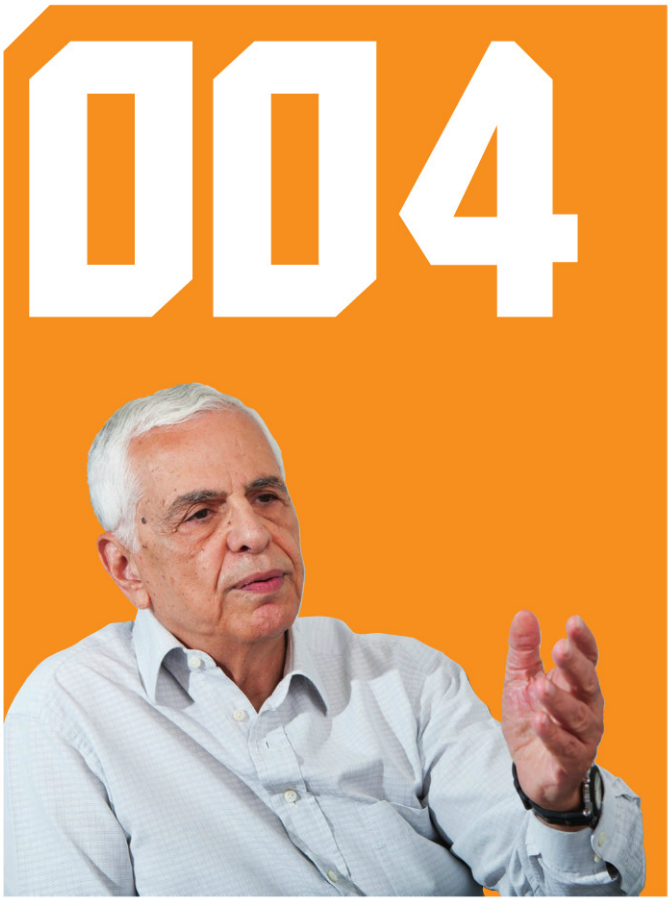
Past projects include defence contracts for Qatar Armed Forces, Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, the 22,000-seat Beirut Municipal Stadium, Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry's HQ, and World Trade Center Abu Dhabi.

The company is also in the process of building three towers in India, including Mumbai's 120-floor World One, which is set to become the country's tallest skyscraper.

In terms of the future, Merhebi and his colleagues have started to explore other areas of commercial interest, including the oil and gas sector.

22,000

The capacity of the ACC-constructed Beirut Municipal Stadium



100,000

The number of units Arabtec Construction will build as part of a middle-income housing development in Egypt

Raja Hani Ghanma

CEO, ARABTEC CONSTRUCTION

Arabtec Holding appointed Raja Hani Ghanma as CEO of its wholly-owned construction subsidiary, Arabtec Construction, towards the end of the first quarter of this year. Promoted from the position of COO, Ghanma had worked at the company for more than 20 years, and had been a board member of Arabtec Holding from 2008 to 2014.

Arabtec Construction's parent company reported a net loss of $76.2m (AED279.8m) for the first quarter of 2015, compared to a net profit of $37.5m (AED137.9m) for the corresponding period of 2014. In a statement to the Dubai bourse, Arabtec stated there was "noticeable pressure on the company's ability to document its claims and variation orders, at a time when the construction sector is generally witnessing significant pressure due to economic and political circumstances in the region".

According to Chairman Khadem Al-Qubaisi, the company will soon begin the first phase of its housing project in Egypt. Arabtec is currently in talks with banks to secure between $100m and $200m to launch the first phase of the development, which is expected to take five to seven years to complete.

Arabtec will work with local contractors, such as Orascom Construction, to build mid-income houses for the community. Initially, the project will involve the construction of 100,000 units.

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006

Kez Taylor

CEO, ALEC

Kez Taylor heads what is undoubtedly one of the best known multidisciplinary construction firms in the region, ALEC. Founded as a part of Al Jaber Group in 2001, the company has since established related businesses that complement its core activities: Alemco, an electromechanical services business; ALEC Fitout, a fit-out and refurbishment specialist; and ALEC Precast, a civil and architectural precast division.

Taylor oversees the activities of almost 10,000 staff across the company, which has worked on renowned regional projects, such as Abu Dhabi Airport Segregation Terminal 1; Abu Dhabi Airport US Customs & Border Facility; and fit-out for retail and F&B at the New Doha International Airport. Over the next year, ALEC will deliver the new Concourse at Dubai International Airport; Abu Dhabi International Airport's Terminal 3; Jabal Akhdar Anantara Hotel Resort & Spa in Oman; Doha Festival City; and the second phase of Dubai Festival City.

Taylor believes that Dubai is currently "a great market to be involved in" for ALEC's operations. He said: "If a project is to be successful, then everyone involved in bringing that project together must all be working towards a common objective. Creating an environment where constraints and conflicts of interest are resolved quickly is often the main challenge in [a] project."

ALEC has also heavily invested its time in developing human capital, and the company is particularly proud of its Leadership Development Programme. The firm offers a yearly graduate recruitment scheme and once on-board as full time employees, these graduates are sent through various programmes to ensure their holistic development as construction professionals.

Taylor's aim is to create a platform where ALEC can be involved in every stage of a project, from the initial build right through to the end maintenance of the property.

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Mohammed Alabbar

CHAIRMAN, EMAAR PROPERTIES

07

Mohamed Alabbar is the founder and chairman of Emaar Properties, a listed Dubai-based developer with operations across the GCC and beyond. The Emaar chariman's greatest achievement is, arguably, the development of Dubai's Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest tower. He also heads Emaar's JV with Giorgio Armani, which boasts luxury hotels at key international locations.

Emaar Properties recorded a net profit of $279m (AED1.03bn) during the first three months of 2015, 7% higher than its 2014 first-quarter figures of $261m (AED957m). The property developer's revenue for Q1 2015 was $820m (AED3.01bn), 25% higher than the $656m (AED2.40bn) it posted in Q4 2014.

Emaar Malls, a retail business majority-owned by Emaar Properties, also reported a Q1 2015 revenue rise, hitting $200m (AED735m), 21% more than the figure achieved during the corresponding period 2014.

Moreover, the firm has announced that its Egyptian subsidiary, Emaar Misr, will list on Egypt's stock exchange this year.

08

Samer Khoury

PRESIDENT – ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION, CONSOLIDATED CONTRATORS COMPANY (CCC)

In 2014, CCC lost the last of its three founding fathers, 91-year-old Said T Khoury. Following his passing, Khoury's three sons, Wael, Tawfic, and Samer, took charge of the Greece-based contracting giant, the latter becoming president of its engineering and construction operations.

At present, the CCC is involved in more than 50 projects across the GCC, Africa, Astralia, Kazakhstan and south-east Asia. It enjoys a particularly strong reputation within the Middle East's oil and gas sector, and is supporting dualisation activities at Oman's 119.7km-long Adam-Thumrait road project.

Abdallah Masood

CEO, AL ARRAB CONTRACTING COMPANY

09

As CEO of Al Arrab Contracting Company, Dr Abdulla Al Masoud has participated in – and continues to contribute to – more than 350ha of projects around Saudi Arabia, including Makkah's Prince Mohammad Bin Abdulaziz Airport and Riyadh's King Khaled International Airport. Al Arrab is also part of the consortium currently working on the first phase of the $14bn (SAR52.51bn) Haramain Railway, which will connect Makkah and Medina via Jeddah.

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010

Dr Eng Sani Şener

PRESIDENT AND CEO, TAV CONSTRUCTION

TAV Construction specialises in the design and construction of airports and iconic buildings. Its strategy in the short-to-medium term is to sustain growth with new projects in established markets where it has a strong presence and reputation – notably Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar.

Group president and CEO, Dr Eng Sani Şener, operates out of the company's headquarters in Istanbul, Turkey. He has been in his role for 18 years, and operating in the Middle East for 12.

Şener can now proudly point to research demonstrating that TAV Construction ranks number-one globally for airport construction; it has been ranked in the top 10 since 2008. Projects completed during the past 12 months include the phase-one development of Muscat International Airport, Oman, as part of a joint venture with CCC; and the expansion of Madinah Prince Mohammad Bin Abdulaziz International Airport, Saudi Arabia, as part of the TIBAH consortium with Al Rajhi Holding and Saudi Oger.

The latter, established on a build-transfer-operate model, was the first airport privatisation in Saudi Arabia, the first public-private enterprise collaboration in the Gulf Region's aviation industry, and the first airport in the Middle East and North Africa region to be LEED Gold certified by the US Green Building Council.

Projects for the remainder of 2015 and beyond include: the 702,000m^2 $2.97bn (AED10.9bn) Midfield Terminal Building at Abu Dhabi International Airport, a UAE JV with CCC and Arabtec; the $1.17bn (OMR450m) phase-two development of Muscat International Airport, a JV with CCC; the $300m (AED1.1bn) Damac Towers by Paramount in Dubai; and, the 100,000m^2 Terminal 5 at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, a KSA JV with Al Arrab.

TAV Construction is eyeing a number of additional upcoming airport projects in the region, especially Saudi Arabia.

The company delivers "learning and development programmes" via its TAV Academy in order to transfer its know-how and experience to future generations, and to improve its employees' skills, competencies, and knowledge. It also hosts "Building Together Seminars" for employees to share best practice about airport construction, develop individual competencies, and collect new ideas and suggestions. TAV has budgeted $420,000 for training in 2015.

TAV has employees of 52 nationalities working on its projects, speaking over 30 languages. It pledges strong respect for cultural differences and tries to meet staff members' needs by organising construction site facilities accordingly. TAV Atelier Training, meanwhile, provides "extra-curricular activities" for staff, including theatre, photography, music, painting, and language courses.

"[TAV] pledges strong respect for cultural differences..."

$2.97bn

The value of Abu Dhabi International Airport's Midfield Terminal Building

Wael Allan

CEO – MIDDLE EAST, ARCADIS

01

Following its Q4 2014 acquisition, Hyder Consulting joined Arcadis' portfolio of landmark brands, which includes EC Harris, RTKL, Callison, and Malcom Pirnie.

In February 2015, Arcadis announced its new management team for the region, appointing Hyder's former regional chairman and group COO, Wael Allan, as chief executive officer – Middle East.

Allan's current mandate is to combine the synergies and strengths of Arcadis, EC Harris, and Hyder Consulting, whilst helping key clients to transform their positions in the Middle East.

Commenting on his appointment, Allan said: "2015 saw the marriage of two major consulting firms, and while this combined business will bring together over 2,000 industry experts, it will also strengthen our focus on urban development in the Middle East.

"Whilst it is very difficult to predict the future trends of [the] oil price in the region, and the impact that any protracted volatility will have on the market, there are immovable deadlines that we will continue to work with to support the market.

"It is a very exciting time for our business, and we see our impact to the market as a very optimistic outlook," he added.

Allan is a chartered engineer and scientist with over 25 years of industry experience, not to mention bilingual proficiency in both English and Arabic.

Previously, he has worked on landmark regional projects, such as the UAE's Emirates Towers and Burj Khalifa.

Q1 2015

Arcadis appointed Allan to the position of CEO – Middle East

"It is a very exciting time for our business..."

Ali Al-Khalifa

CEO, ASTAD PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Formed in 2008, ASTAD Project Management is a joint venture between Qatar Foundation and Qatar Petroleum. As CEO of the company, Ali Al-Khalifa is overseeing some of the Emirate's largest projects, including the National Museum of Qatar, Qatar Economic Zone (QEZ), Qatar Foundation Health & Wellness Precinct, and the Doha City Tennis Stadium.

Last year, ASTAD joined the Qatar Olympic Committee in launching the Ali Bin Hamad Al Attiyah Arena, formerly the Al Sadd Multipurpose Hall. Commenting at the time, Al-Khalifa said: "We were honoured when we were selected to manage this project and contribute to the development of the State of Qatar sports infrastructure."

Outside of Qatar, ASTAD has signed a memorandum of understanding with Education Above All Foundation, relating to a pilot project in Kenya's Kakuma Refugee Camp. The project seeks to address a range of factors that currently prevent residents from receiving an education, such as health and nutrition, livelihood, food security, water and sanitation, and energy-effecting changes.

Talal Al Dhiyebi

CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, ALDAR PROPERTIES

Gurjit Singh, Aldar Properties' former chief development officer, announced his departure from the company during the first quarter of 2015. He certainly left some large shoes to fill, but fortunately, it seems that his successor, Talal Al Dhiyebi, is the right fit.

For example, under Al Dhiyebi's leadership, Aldar's flagship asset, Yas Mall, has been fully leased. Speaking to *Construction Week* about the firm's future business, Al Dhiyebi said: "We have an exciting pipeline of real estate developments that are testament to our ability to deliver on our strategy of monetising our land bank, growing our recurring revenues, and delivering value for all of our shareholders. We recently announced the launch of three new developments at Cityscape Abu Dhabi 2015, bringing around 2,000 residential units to the Abu Dhabi market."

Ali Rashid Lootah

CHAIRMAN, NAKHEEL

In 2010, Ali Rashid Lootah was handed the reins of Nakheel, a company deep in debt following the 2008 financial crisis. Five years later, the chairman has not only succeeded in turning around the firm's fortunes, but has also completed several projects that stalled in the wake of the crash.

Earlier this year, Nakheel reported that its full-year profit for 2014 jumped to $1bn (AED3.68bn), a 27% hike compared to the previous year. It is now planning to expand its residential leasing portfolio from 17,000 units (2014) to 30,000 by 2017. It has estimated that during the same period, its overall leasable retail space will grow from 232,250m^2 to 929,000m^2.

Nakheel's UAE retail developments include Dragon Mart, Ibn Battuta Mall, Nakheel Mall and Hotel, The Pointe at Palm Jumeirah, Deira Islands Mall, Jumeirah Village Triangle Mall, and several other neighbourhood malls.

015

Emad Azmy

PRESIDENT, AL SHAFAR GENERAL CONTRACTING

Beginning with low-rise buildings 16 years ago, Al Shafar General Contracting (ASGC) has grown to become a preferred builder for UAE government entities like RTA, Dubai Police and ADNOC, and prestigious real estate investment and development bodies like Meraas Holding, Dubai Properties, Bloom Properties, Emaar Misr, Al Habtoor Group and Damac.

Emad Azmy, the Egyptian civil engineer who co-founded ASGC with chairman Mohamed Seif Bin Shafar in 1989, has driven the firm's growth within the MEP, interior, civil, and building materials fields. A workforce of 10,000 labourers and an extensive base of ASGC-owned construction equipment have enabled the firm to closely control its projects and win prestigious contracts.

In the past 12 months, ASGC has completed works for the Waldorf Astoria, Bay Square, Hyatt Place Hotel and Dubai Airport Expansion Phase 3. During the coming year, the firm will fulfil the role of principal contractor across a host of landmark projects, including the $136m (AED500m) Union Museum, the $490m (AED1.8bn) Onyx, and Bloom Properties' Abu Dhabi Marina. What's more, ASGC has started to diversify its offering, winning projects in the hospitality, healthcare, industrial, oil and gas, and social infrastructure sectors.

Commenting on his company's current activities, Azmy said: "With a portfolio of over 250 projects, ASGC has developed a reputation for consistently delivering high-quality projects."

"ASGC has developed a reputation for consistently delivering..."

1989

Emad Azmy co-founded ASGC with chairman Mohamed Seif Bin Shafar

David Barwell

MIDDLE EAST CEO, AECOM

016

David Barwell is used to compartmentalising his professional life. Since 2009, he has been chief executive for Aecom in the Middle East. Earlier this year, he also added India to his remit.

Barwell has been helping to deliver technical professional services for more than 20 years. Before moving to the Middle East, he served as chief operating officer for Aecom in Australia and New Zealand.

With a background in the fields of rail and transit, Barwell has also been involved in the planning and design of urban mass transit systems for major cities, including London, Hong Kong, Manila, Sydney and Brisbane. With this in mind, it's fairly safe to assume that Aecom's regional technical chief is eyeing upcoming contracts connected to the GCC Railway Network, not to mention the work being driven by Middle Eastern infrastructure investment.

Under Barwell's leadership, Aecom was awarded a contract to supply pre-programme management consultancy services and trained staff to support the planning and design work for Jeddah Metro. This project comprises a metro, trams, and 293km of track, in addition to a 750km-long bus network and supplementary water taxis.

Barwell is also interested in alternative project delivery. He has been active in alliance contracting, serving on alliance boards to deliver Australian transit projects.

Within the academic sphere, Barwell is an engineering graduate of the UK's Brighton university. He is also a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers in Australia, and a corporate member of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

"[He has] been involved in... urban mass transit systems for major cities..."

293KM

The length of track that will be laid during the construction of the Jeddah Metro project in Saudi Arabia

Steve Flint

GROUP GENERAL MANAGER, KHANSAHEB

Steve Flint has enjoyed more than 40 years in the construction industry, both in his native UK and in other global territories. Following work experience in countries across Africa, Flint arrived in the UAE as group general manager for Khansaheb Civil Engineering in 2010.

The company's group GM says the Emirates' construction market has been very challenging for contractors, subcontractors and consultants alike over the past five years. All of those working within the sector have had to make difficult decisions during the period, leading to the streamlining of business operations across the board.

Commenting on Khansaheb's journey, Flint adds: "We have become much more efficient, much more cost effective, and much more focused on developing and retaining our people to improve business performance."

He contends that the biggest challenges ahead for the UAE's construction industry will be "demand outstripping supply, and tackling the concern of insufficient qualified and capable resources to deliver major projects". The challenge for contractors and consultants in particular, Flint asserts, will be to avoid the temptation to take on work that they do not have the capacity to deliver.

"The biggest opportunities and challenges for Khansaheb over the next 12 months will be how we respond to increased demand in the marketplace as Dubai continues to build towards Expo 2020," he points out.

"We will follow a structured, sustainable business plan that ensures improved business performance in every respect, with planned modest growth," Flint concludes.

"The biggest opportunities and challenges... will be how we respond to increased demand..."

2010

Flint relocated to the UAE to become group general manager for Khansaheb Civil Engineering

018

Sheikh Ali Bin Hamad Al Thani

CHAIRMAN, HBK CONTRACTING

Established in 1970, HBK Contracting undertook various civil construction projects in Qatar, thus making a significant contribution to the economic progress of the country and the government sector. The firm is involved in the construction and maintenance of contracting services for public buildings, hospitals, high-rise towers, and various other infrastructure projects.

HBK has executed numerous important projects for a selection of high-profile clients, including Ashghal, Kahramaa, Qatar Rail, Qatar Petroleum, Doha New Port Project, Msheireb Properties and many others from the private sector.

During the last year, HBK has been working on the $89.8m (QAR326.9m) Qatar International Islamic Bank Tower, as the main contractor. On top of that, the company conducted the substructure and superstructure works for the $94.7bn (QAR344.7bn) Heart of Doha. This project involves the development and regeneration of inner Doha, whilst preserving the heritage of its buildings. Other completed projects include the $89.2m (QAR324.7m) Msheireb building.

At present, HBK is working as the main contractor at Lusail City's Marina Mall. The firm also bagged the $686m (QAR2.5bn) construction contract for Phase 3 of the flagship Msheireb Downtown Doha project. As the penultimate stage, the awarding of this construction contract marks a key milestone for the development.

"[HBK] bagged the $686m construction contract... for the Msheireb Downtown Doha project"

$94.7BN

The value of the Heart of Doha project, for which HBK conducted the substructure and superstructure works

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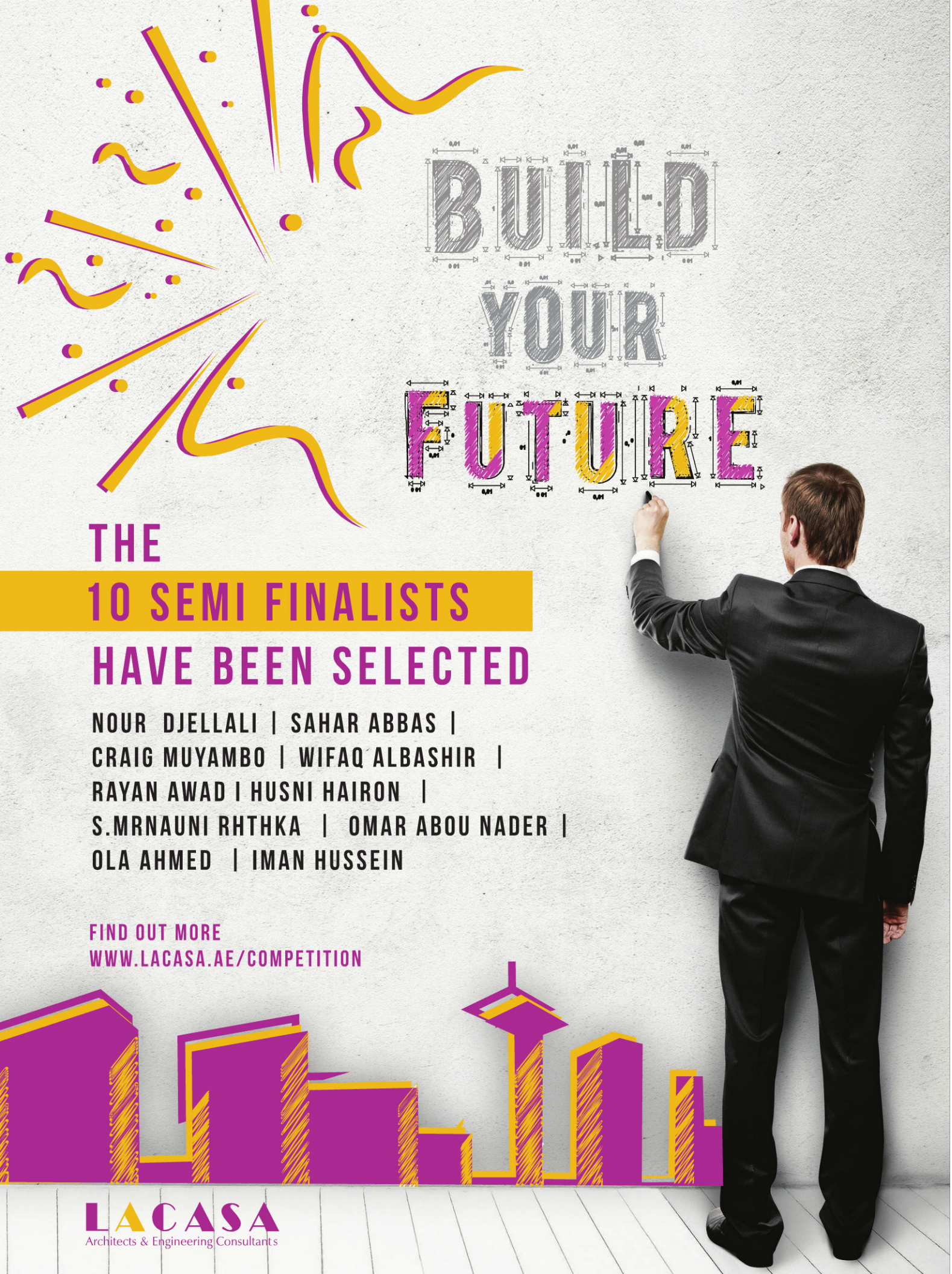

LACASA
Architects & Engineering Consultants

Khaldoun Tabari

VICE CHAIRMAN, DRAKE & SCULL

Despite a 38% drop in first-quarter 2015 net profits, Khaldoun Tabari, CEO and vice chairman of Drake & Scull International (DSI), remains confident about the company's future growth. He mentions that the strength of the subcontractor's historical performance globally will sustain its future growth, and it will be more selective in its bidding activities, focusing on key projects that have the potential to help the firm to achieve higher margins. In the first quarter of the year, DSI's engineering arm scooped the $54m (AED198m) Jewel of the Creek development in Dubai, and its general contracting business won the $49.1m (AED180m) Reef Residences project.

Osama Bishai

CEO, ORASCOM CONSTRUCTION

Nasdaq Dubai- and Egyptian Stock Exchange-listed Orascom Construction employs approximately 53,000 people across more than 20 countries. As a global engineering and construction contractor, the firm primarily focuses on infrastructure, industrial and high-end commercial projects within the Middle East, North Africa, United States and the Pacific Rim. In November 2014, Orascom signed a memorandum of understanding with Abu Dhabi's state-owned International Petroleum Investment Corporation, which gave it an 18-month option over a 2,000-3,000MW clean-coal power plant project next to El Hamarawein Port on the Red Sea coast. The companies are now 50/50 JV partners, and are in the process of raising project finance for the project.

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Tom Bower

MANAGING DIRECTOR – MIDDLE EAST, WSP | PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF

021

Following WSP Global's $1.3bn acquisition of Parsons Brinckerhoff in the fourth quarter of last year, Tom Bower went from managing 700 people to 1,450. The formation of WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff, announced in September 2014, saw the company's worldwide workforce increase from 17,500 to 31,500.

Bower began his WSP tenure in 1999 as assistant to the firm's former CEO, a position which he held for four years. To date, he has accrued 16 years of experience at the company, over a quarter of which have been spent in the Middle East. In the wake of the 2014 acquisition, Bower moved from being WSP's managing director of Middle East & India, to WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff's managing director – Middle East.

In first quarter of 2015, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff achieved total and net revenues of $1.40bn and $1.02bn, up 175% and 133%, respectively. These increases, according to the firm, came mainly as a result of business acquisitions, but were bolstered by: 14.2% global organic growth (11.8% organic and 2.4% due to favourable foreign exchange rates).

Commenting on the healthy 2015 figures, Bower told *Construction Week*: "There [are] two aspects to the first-quarter results for this year. From a global point of view, the business, which is growing [in size], has performed very well in the duration. The fourth quarter of 2014 was the first time we reported as a combined business, but the results from the first quarter of 2015 are more telling of how our overall operations work in a business-as-usual environment."

"The fourth quarter of 2014 was the first time we reported as a combined business..."

$1.40BN

Revenue achieved by WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff during Q1 2015

Simon Moon

MIDDLE EAST CEO, ATKINS

022

"If you've got the right people... you're in the strongest position..."

Simon Moon approaches the second anniversary of his appointment as Atkins' Middle East CEO – and his 20th year at the firm – with a busy order book.

Business performance has been strong ahead of the company's annual results this month. As its most recent trading statement revealed: "Our Middle East business delivered a good second-half performance, driven primarily by significant rail and metro projects. Looking forward, we continue to see a good pipeline of work across our focus sectors of rail, infrastructure, and property."

H1 sales grew by 16% and the operating margin was up 9.3%. As the region's leading metro consultancy, Atkins delivered design and MEP services across the entire Dubai Tram network in time for its launch in November 2014.

At present, Atkins is providing client QDVC with multidisciplinary services – including station planning, architecture, tunnel design, and track alignment – for Qatar's 12km, five-station Doha Metro Red Line South.

Atkins is lead design consultant for the $3.85bn (QAR14.02bn) Doha Metro Gold Line, the largest package of Doha Metro works to be awarded; and the FAST consortium working on three of Riyadh Metro's six lines, in a joint venture with Spanish consultancy, Typsa.

Its UAE property projects, meanwhile, include: Dubai Opera; Al Habtoor Residences; Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club; and Suites in the Skai.

Moreover, Atkins is involved in the UAE's nuclear construction programme as technical adviser for the power project at Barakah, where four reactors are being procured from a South Korean consortium led by Korea Electric Power Corporation (Kepco).

In terms of future opportunities, Moon said: "We're really excited by the continued growth in opportunities to support clients in Saudi Arabia. We've seen a step change in the level of thinking [that] is going into major projects and programmes, and this is driving expectations and demand for high-quality consultancy support.

But what keeps him awake at night? As Moon pointed out, skilled staff members represent the core of Atkins' success.

"Keeping and attracting the best talent is always the most important challenge because if you've got the right people, and you're enabling them to reach their full potential, then you're in the strongest position to win and deliver great projects and delight clients," he added.

16%

Atkins' sales growth during the first six months of the 2014/15 financial year

023

Dr Jawaharlal Gangaramani

CHAIRMAN, AL FARA'A GROUP

Dr Jawaharlal Gangaramani emigrated from India to the UAE in 1974 to work on Dubai World Trade Centre as a project engineer. At the time, this was the tallest building in the Middle East. In 1980, he founded Alfara'a General Contracting Company, which has since evolved into the Al Fara'a Integrated Construction Group. The firm comprises 10 fully integrated construction and related businesses, collectively employing 18,000 employees in the UAE and India. Al Fara'a's projects include the Al Hilal Bank commercial office tower on Al Maryah Island, and Silaa Community Hospital in the western region of Abu Dhabi. Under Abu Dhabi Education Council's (ADEC) Future Schools Project, the company's partnership with UK contractor Wates has yielded joint venture education projects in the Al Zakheer and Al Foah areas of Al Ain. Furthermore, Al Fara'a was the main contractor for Siemens' headquarters at Masdar City.

024

Pierre Sironval

MANAGING DIRECTOR, UAE, SIX CONSTRUCT

Pierre Sironval has been Six Construct's UAE managing director for roughly 18 months, yet has been part of Besix's wider operations for 20 years. Today, he leads a workforce of over 7,000 through the Besix subsidiary. It has been a fruitful year for the firm, with 2014 revenue – excluding KSA projects – reaching $947m (AED3.49bn) between 1 January and 31 December. Projected 2015 revenues – again, excluding Saudi Arabia – are $1.19bn (AED4.43bn), out of which $980m (AED3.64bn) is for secured orders. $216m (AED794m) is still to be signed off. Last November, Six Construct was at the forefront of news coverage thanks to its role in the consortium that delivered Dubai Tram. Other iconic projects delivered during the past year include Yas Mall and Cleveland Clinic in Abu Dhabi, Doha Convention Centre and Hamad International Airport in Qatar, and Four Seasons Bahrain Bay.

025

Ziad El Chaar

MANAGING DIRECTOR, DAMAC

Since its establishment in 2002, Damac has been a name to be reckoned with in Dubai's luxury real estate segment. The company delivered more than 3,500 units during 2014. To date, it has completed 12,866 units. Last year, Damac worked across eight projects. In the UAE, it completed Capital Bay, Executive Bay, The Cosmopolitan, Water's Edge, Maison The Vogue, Lincoln Park, and partially completed Lakeside. 2014 also saw the firm's first international development in the form of Saudi Arabia's Al Jawharah. Damac's managing director, Ziad El Chaar, has been with the company for almost a decade, and is confident that he and his colleagues will continue to grow in line with the region. Commenting on the current drivers behind Damac's business, he said: "With tourism growing and the UAE infrastructure investment at an all-time high, there is a real incentive for international buyers, and the market remains strong."

026

Abdullah Saad Al-Rashid

CHAIRMAN, AL-RASHID TRADING & CONTRACTING

As chairman of Al-Rashid Trading & Contracting Company (RTCC), Abdullah Saad Al-Rashid is the face of one of Saudi Arabia's best-known contractors. The company has carried out major projects across the Kingdom, including the $1bn (SAR3.8bn) Northern Border Security project for the Ministry of Interior. More recently, RTCC has been supporting the delivery of a $606m (SAR2.27bn) housing project connected to a foundation established by the late King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, which will comprise 10,000 homes on the outskirts of Jarzan. RTCC handled the project's first phase, which included the construction of 2,249 villas, 11 mosques, medical centres and supporting buildings. In January of this year, Saudi Arabia's mining company, Ma'aden, signed a $150m (SAR563m) deal with RTCC to commence work at Waad Al-Shamal City in the north of the country.

Patrick McKinney

MANAGING DIRECTOR, BAM INTERNATIONAL

BAM International, a subsidiary of Netherlands-based Royal Bam Group, has a busy year ahead with some major marine engineering projects in the region.

These include: a breakwater berth at Hamriya Port in Dubai, involving the construction of an 820m concrete block quay wall to segregate general cargo and fishing boats; and marine infrastructure works for phase 3 of the Al Dabbiya oil field development in Abu Dhabi for client ADCO, involving channel dredging, reclamation works, construction of a cause way, shore protection, heliport, pontoons and fences.

Also included in its portfolio is phase 1 of Jebel Ali Terminal 4 in Dubai, involving the construction of a 400m quay wall, 420m access bridge and 2.5km causeway plus 17 hectares of land reclamation.

But the company's strategy and blueprint for success in the GCC region is, according to Irishman Patrick McKinney, to have a geographically diverse portfolio of projects across a range of different parts of the market.

Stadium work is another area of expertise for BAM International, and the company is working on the Al Ain Stadium and mixed development, phase 2 in Abu Dhabi, a 200,000m^2 development comprising housing (550 apartments in six five-storey buildings), a commercial building, car park, souk and a 172-bed hotel, along with associated infrastructure – all of which will achieve an Estidama 2 Pearl rating.

Meanwhile, BAM International was presented with the Health and Safety Initiative of the Year award for its iBAM system at the Construction Week Awards 2014.

iBAM is a software system that allows HSE teams and project managers to see in real time if workers carrying out specific tasks have been trained to do them.

If workers are not properly trained, they can be stopped from working on tasks instantly and then reassigned. This helps to cut the significant number of accidents that take place through a lack of proper training.

"A diverse portfolio is BAM's blueprint for GCC success"

200,000M²
Al Ain Stadium Phase 2

028

William Haddad

CHAIRMAN, MACE

William Haddad has been the owner and chairman of Mace for almost half a century. Although one of the quieter EPC contractors in the Middle East market, the company's specialisation in water and wastewater systems makes it a formidable brand in across the region. Mace works closely with Abu Dhabi's governmental authorities as a main construction, and operation and maintenance contractor. Two of the most notable projects conducted by the company during the last 12 months are: ADNOC's New Medical Centre at Khalidiya Villas, Abu Dhabi, where Mace was contracted to carry out demolition and enabling works; and master-planning sewage systems and associated work at Saadiyat Island. In 2015, Mace can look forward to two major projects, the first of which entails construction of pumping station in Khalifa City A and B; and operations, maintenance, and repair operations at STP Qatar, a $315m project on which Mace is the main contractor.

$315M

VALUE OF STP QATAR PROJECT

029

David Welch

PRESIDENT EMEA, BECHTEL

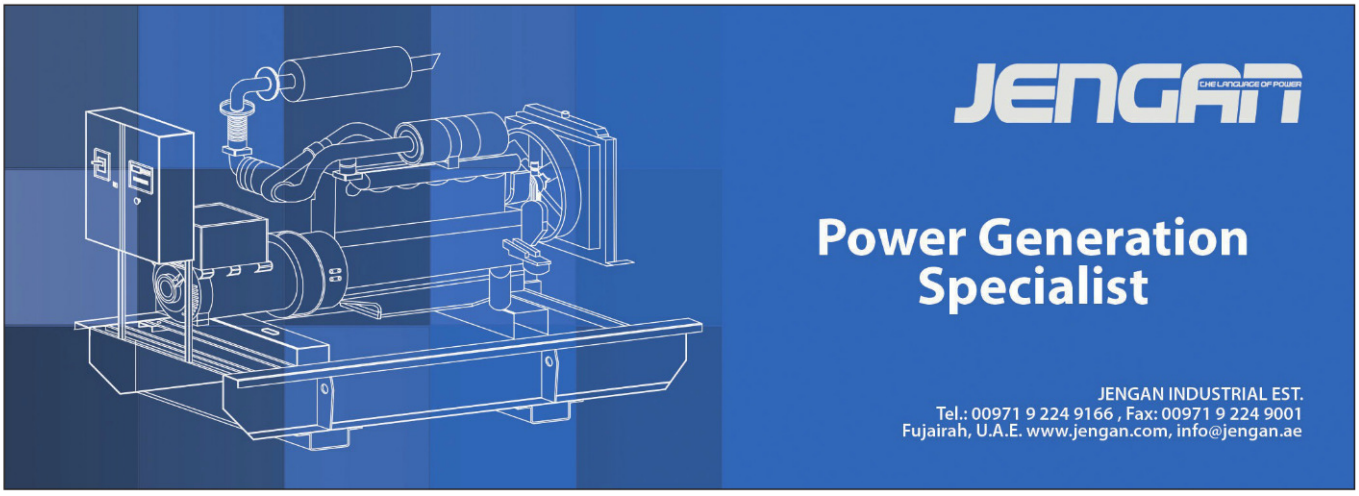
If you combine his previous career in the United States' diplomatic service and his current role at Bechtel, David Welch has been working in the Middle East for almost four decades. He says that the most significant developments he has witnessed have been driven by infrastructural investment. Commenting on his experiences during his time in the region, Welch said: "It has been a time of great change, particularly in the GCC. Infrastructure development has had a transformational impact, coupling the GCC to emerging markets in Africa and Asia, in addition to traditional trading partners in Europe and the Americas." Arguably, Bechtel's most notable project in recent times has been Hamad International Airport in Doha, Qatar.

030

Ahmad Abdelrazaq

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, SAMSUNG C&T

Ahmad Abdelrazaq joined Samsung C&T in 2004 to support construction of the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, UAE. Since his arrival at the company, Abdelrazaq has overseen a transition from a construction-only concern to a design and build, pre-construction, and engineering business for high-rise and complex developments. In the Middle East, Samsung C&T is currently working on power plants in the UAE, and Riyadh Metro in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



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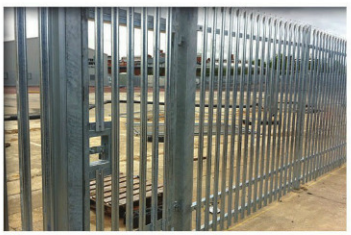

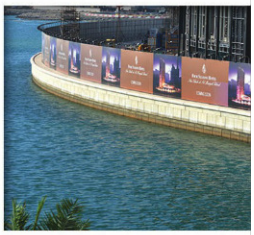

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Fakher Al Shawaf

CHAIRMAN, AL BAWANI

Fakher Al Shawaf, unlike his other counterparts, did not leave the Kingdom to study abroad, instead choosing to complete his civil engineering course at King Saud University. He was already working on projects in Riyadh during his degree course.

He joined his father in business at Al Bawani in 1997. At that time the firm took on small projects as a main contractor and worked on larger schemes as a subcontractor to Dutch company, Ballast Needham.

By 2000, the firm had grown in size too the point where it was handling contracts on its own and continued to cater to its niches, healthcare, military and airport projects. The firm has also built embassies and consulates.

Fast forward another decade or so, and Al Bawani has completed more than 45 healthcare projects and was involved with the King Abdullah Cancer and Liver Disease Centre, at the new $900m (SAR3.4bn) King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre.

More recently Al Bawani, in a JV with Italian contracting giant Salini Impregilo, won a pair of contracts to build two huge medical cities for the Ministry of Health – the 1,000-bed Prince Mohammed bin Abdulaziz City and the 1,350-bed King Faisal Medical City in Abha – with a combined value of $2.75bn (SAR10.3bn).

The company has also completed a couple of key Riyadh schemes over the past 12 months. Earlier this year, it delivered projects for Riyadh Investment Corporation – the government backed investment body behind the capital's King Abdullah Financial District.

In the schools sector, it has been appointed on to a panel of contractors charged with delivering a $10.7bn (SAR40bn) school building and refurbishment programme by Tatweer Building Company (TBC) – an agency commissioned by the government to open around 1,000 new schools per year.

Meanwhile, Al Bawani chose not to bid for any of the Riyadh Metro projects, but like everyone else in the city, Al Shawaf remains an interested bystander. "We were approached, but I said 'it is not for now'. It's better to be on the side, see how it is going on and to learn more," he said.

031

NEW ENTRY

"For us, [Riyadh Metro] is not for now..."

$544M

Al Bawani's deals at King Faisal Specialist Hospital

Mohammed Al Rais

REGIONAL PRESIDENT, HILL INTERNATIONAL

032

When Mohammed Al Rais was made regional president of global construction consultant Hill International's Middle East operations, he would have known he had a tough task ahead.

While the markets in Saudi Arabia and Qatar looked strong, the same could not be said for Hill's regional home base of Dubai. But with Al Rais' careful management of Hill's resources, and six years on, the company has made Dubai one of Hill's strongest markets.

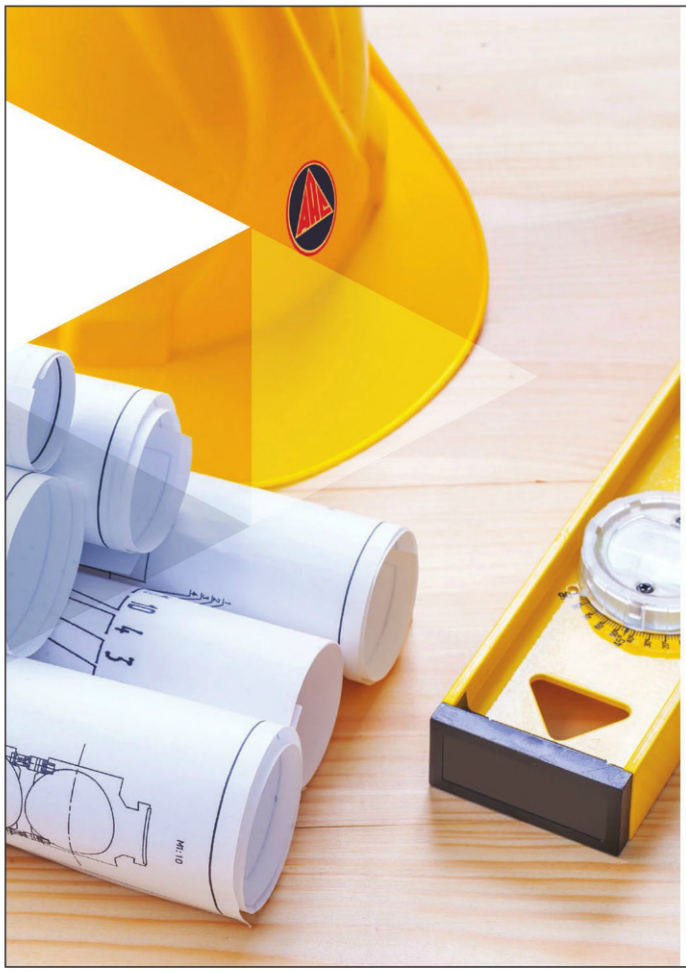
Hill has a regional project management office in Dubai, two offices in Abu Dhabi, and regional representation as far afield as Jeddah and Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon and Baghdad in Iraq.

The company has worked on the Doha Metro, Abu Dhabi International Airport's Midfield Terminal and the Jabal Omar complex in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, and it can now boast that 50% of its global revenues are being generated from the Middle East market.

Al Rais has more than 35 years' experience in managing construction projects. Prior to this appointment as MD of Hill, he headed the company's Abu Dhabi office.

50%

Percentage of global sales Hill derives from the Middle East



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Luay Khoury

PRESIDENT, PROJACS

033

Bahrain-based Projacs International, under the leadership of CEO and president Louay Khoury, is preparing for a major business expansion by diversifying its portfolio, beyond its core building projects and into new markets, after achieving 12% revenue growth over the past year.

Said Khoury: "Our focus would be infrastructural types of projects including transportation, water and power. To do this, we have been entertaining the idea of a strategic alliance/partnership with a well-reputed international company specialising in this field. I feel that this will create a big opportunity for Projacs over the coming year and would reflect positively on the overall business."

The company does not underestimate the task of forming a new partnership/strategic alliance. "Merging two cultures and operations to execute one unified business plan and creating a profitable business come with many challenges that we have to face," added Khoury. "We also continue to face other external challenges that are natural consequences of the current economic and political situation in the Middle East. Obviously, those challenges have been considered in our business plan and we are well prepared to handle them."

The company's main Middle East markets are currently KSA, Qatar and the UAE, followed by Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain – but the company has a broad spread of recently completed, ongoing and future works right across the region, including hotels and resorts, retail, residential, healthcare and public sector buildings.

Corporate social responsibility is taken seriously at Projacs. Its most visible CSR initiative is the company's involvement with the Palestinian Museum, which is to be a centre for the promotion of culture, history, peace and education in Palestine.

"Merging two cultures comes with many challenges"

12%

Projacs' revenue over the last year

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034

HE Abdulla A Mohammed Al Habbai

CHAIRMAN, MERAAS HOLDING

HE Abdulla Ahmed Mohammed Al Habbai has been a prominent figure in changing Dubai's landscape, since he adorned the post of group chairman and CEO of the engineer's office in 2005. With a background in engineering, Al Habbai has more than 20 years of experience in the property and real estate sector, including 16 years of service at Dubai Municipality, focusing on urban planning.

Meraas recently announced the launch of a new outdoor urban lifestyle concept, Boxpark, featuring 44 retail, restaurant, cafe, and entertainment brands, and blending the best of local and international concepts.

One of the company's flagship projects is Dubai Parks & Resorts (DPR), a mammoth entertainment development boasting three theme parks: motiongate Dubai, Bollywood Parks Dubai, and Legoland Dubai.

The company recently launched 'La Mer', a mixed-use development that will take shape in Dubai's exclusive beachfront district, Jumeirah, in the vicinity of Pearl Jumeirah Island.

Meraas also signed an agreement with Bulgari Hotels and Resorts to bring the luxury hospitality brand to Dubai. The hotel will be located at Jumeirah Bay Island and will be spread across a 557,418m^2 area.

$1.2BN

Development value of DPR

035

José Antonio López-Monís

CEO AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, HABTOOR LEIGHTON GROUP

One of the leading diversified international contractors in Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Habtoor Leighton Group (HLG) employs more than 20,000 people in the region. The company was formed in 2007 and has an extensive track record of working on large-scale projects across the region.

With more than 20 years' experience in the construction sector, José Antonio López-Monís joined the company as its chief executive officer and managing director in October 2012. Things started looking up for the company when it bagged the contract to provide mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) works for the latest stage of one of Dubai's largest construction projects, Jewel of the Creek.

The company considers Qatar to be a very important market, and over the past 12 months, the contractor has picked up several new projects in the gas-rich Emirate, including the $59.9m road project, the Azizya east, located about 9km west of Central Doha; and a $608m contract by the Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) to build the world's largest reinforced concrete reservoirs in the country.

Earlier this year, HLG also won a $95m contract to develop the luxury beachfront five-star Saraya Bandar Jissah hotel in Oman.

$95M

Value of Saraya Bandar Jissah hotel

036

Moafaq Al Gaddah

CHAIRMAN, MAG GROUP

Moafaq Al Gaddah founded MAG Group in 1978 in the UAE. The firm has since grown to include 20 large companies employing more than 2,000 people and operating in a number of economic verticals, including trading, auto spare parts and accessories, manufacturing, shipping and logistics, construction, real estate, and more. Al Gaddah has risen from humble beginnings in Syria to head an all industry business conglomerate that now spans the globe.

MAG Group is currently developing the $544.5m (AED2bn) multi-phase project, The Polo Residences and The Polo Townhouses, in Meydan City. The Polo Townhouses are due for handover by Q4 2015, whereas the Polo Residences are slated for delivery by Q4 2017. Other projects include a logistics development in Al Quoz due for handover by the end of 2016, and Phase 1 of the Sharjah Complex project in Al Saja'a, which will be delivered by the end of H1 2016.

The company's delivered projects portfolio is worth $1.3bn (AED5bn), with others under development and in the planning stage worth the same amount.

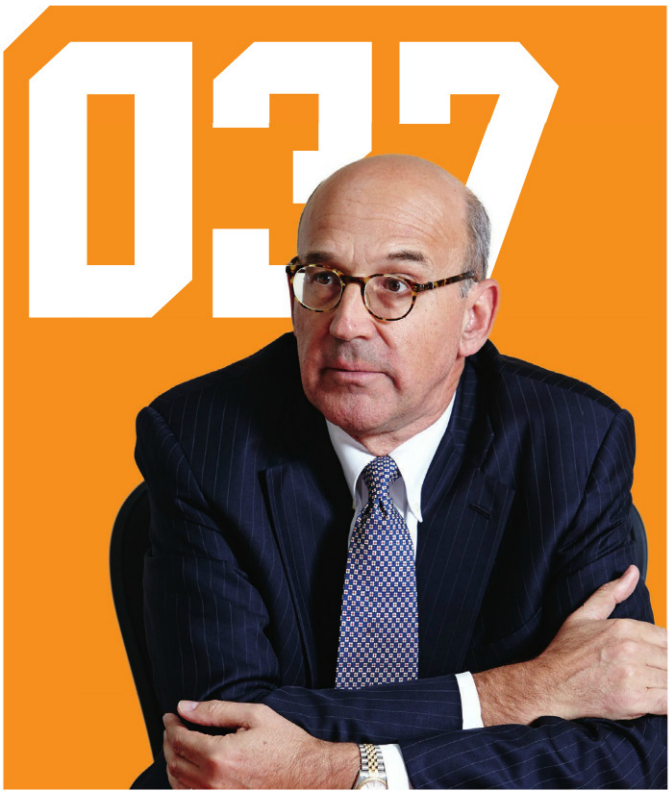
MAG Group also plans to launch a $177m (AED650m) residential tower in Jumeirah Lake Towers – Cluster K in the future, after receiving all necessary approvals.

$544.5M

Value of Polo project in Meydan City

Gary Adams

MENA PRESIDENT, PARSONS



Gary Adams was appointed Parsons' president of Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in 2014. With 35 years of industry experience – 23 of which have been spent at Parsons – Adams is responsible for the company's operations throughout the region.

During his time at the company, Adams has held positions with increasing levels of responsibility. Prior to his appointment as MENA president, he served as executive vice president of global operations for Parsons Transportation Group.

Adams holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and a master's degree in transportation engineering from the University of California, Berkley.

A US native with a multi-disciplinary background, combining engineering, traffic engineering, highway design, and transportation planning work, Adams now leads a team of 6,000 people across the Middle East.

Adams has stated that his primary strategy is to introduce new market lines. He is looking to take Parsons into the oil and gas sector, with greater penetration in KSA where the company has existing projects such as the Riyadh Metro.

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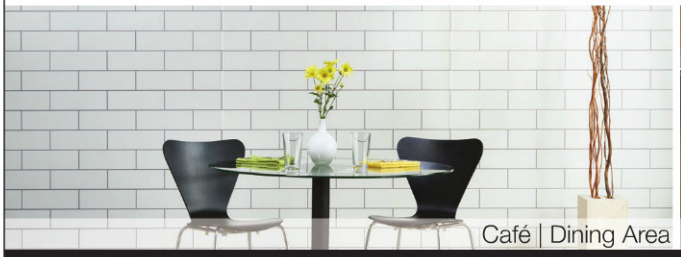
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TOP 10

A run down of the most impressive projects carried out by the top 10 construction outfits on *Construction Week*'s 2015 Power 100 list

01 SAUDI BINLADIN GROUP (SBG)

One of the GCC's most formidable construction players, SBG is the largest contractor in Saudi Arabia – and that's not without reason. Since its formation in 1931, SBG has worked closely with the Kingdom's government on a multitude of high-profile projects, ranging from Jeddah's Royal Terminal to King Abdulaziz International Airport's new Hajj Terminal. SBG is currently working on three mega projects in the country: the $86bn (SAR322bn) King Abdullah Economic City, which SBG is constructing as part of a consortium comprising KSA and Emirati companies; Kingdom Tower, the 1km-tall development currently under-construction in Jeddah; and Abraj Kudai, the planned world's largest hotel in Makkah, comprising 10,000 rooms across 12 separate towers.

02 CHINA STATE CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING CORPORATION (CSCEC)

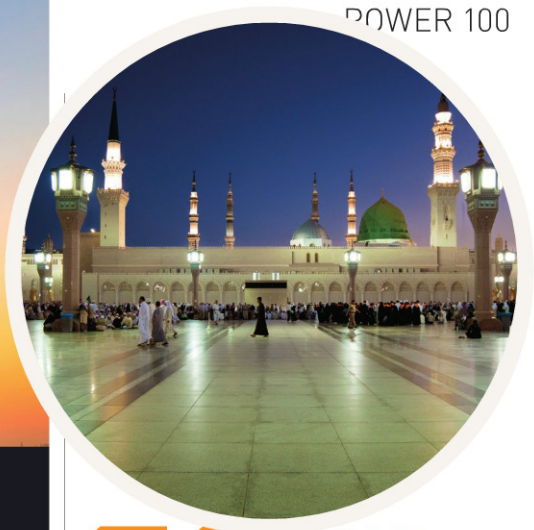
A global contracting powerhouse, CSCEC has quickly grown to charm the GCC's market since its work at Palm Jumeirah villas, the first project carried out by the firm – and Middle East CEO Yu Tao – in the region. The company has since grown, using its vast resources and experience as one of China's largest contractors, to win technically-difficult and challenging projects. As of 2013, CSCEC Middle East had completed $4bn (AED14.6bn) of projects in the region. In the same year, the firm took its first steps as a developer, nabbing a stake in Skai Holdings' $1bn (AED3.67bn) Viceroy Dubai Palm Jumeirah. CSCEC was also involved with the Midfield Terminal Complex at Abu Dhabi International Airport, through a $164.4m (AED600m) specialist sub-contract.

03 EL SEIF ENGINEERING CONTRACTING COMPANY (ESECC)

Formed in Riyadh in 1975 as a part of parent company El Seif Group, ESECC grew to become a key player in the Saudi Arabian construction market, following its completion of a military project for Royal Saudi Air Force in 1989. The firm can also boast of having constructed Saudi Arabia's original Kingdom Tower (above), Riyadh's 300m-tall, mixed-use development, which was completed in 2002.

04 ARABIAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY (ACC)

Headquartered in Lebanon, hometown of founder Ghassan Merhebi, ACC's earliest projects in the region were in the UAE. These included government-backed housing projects funded by Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan. ACC was also the company behind Gate Towers – the three-tower marvel linked by a skybridge at Reem Island, Abu Dhabi – and it built the Emirate's $816mn (AED3bn) Etihad Towers as well.



05 ARABTEC CONSTRUCTION

Founded in the 1970s, Arabtec was awarded its first construction contract for three cold stores in 1979. Following their successful completion, the contractor was awarded the Al Ain Student Accommodation project in 1980. Over the years, Arabtec has worked on numerous reputed developments in the UAE; its most notable was arguably the construction of the world's tallest building, Burj Khalifa, in conjunction with Samsung C&T and Six Construct.

07 EMAAR

Since it was founded in 1997, Mohamed Alabbar has taken Emaar to dizzying heights, and is rightly regarded as one of the region's – and the world's – best-known property developers. In 2014, Emaar announced its foray into the affordable hotel segment, thus adding to its diverse portfolio of global projects. The firm boasts developments in Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, not to mention other territories like India and Africa.

09 AL ARRAB CONTRACTING COMPANY (AACC)

AACC was established in Saudi Arabia in 1983, with its head office located in Riyadh. In 2005, Al Rajhi Holding Group acquired a share of AACC, enabling the firm to gain a better reputation in the market, and more prestigious projects too. Al Rajhi acquired the balance share of ACC in 2011. As a part of Al Rajhi, AACC was awarded the civil works contract for the Haramain High Speed Rail project in Saudi Arabia.

06 ALEC

Dubai-based contractor Alec has come a long way since its inception in 2001 as part of the Al Jaber Group. Spread across the GCC, Alec's project portfolio comprises landmark developments, such as Concourse A of Dubai International Airport, Yas Waterworld Abu Dhabi, Terminal Two of the Abu Dhabi International Airport, and The Address Hotel Apartments. Famously, the firm secured contracts totalling $1bn (AED4bn) within just three months.

08 CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORS COMPANY (CCC)

Hasib Sabbagh formed CCC in 1952 with Kamil 'Abd al-Rahman and Said Khoury, winning contracts for work in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Notably, the firm worked on Jubail Harbour and King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals – mega-projects of their time. It was also around this time that CCC made inroads into the Qatar's oil and gas industry.

10 TAV CONSTRUCTION (TAV)

TAV Construction is a member of TAV Group Company, and was founded in 2003 as a specialist aviation contractor. The driving force behind the establishment of TAV Construction was the awarding of the build-operate-transfer tender at Istanbul Ataturk Airport. In 2012, 49% of the company's shares were sold to Aeroports de Paris Group. To date, TAV's completed projects include Istanbul's Ataturk Airport and Doha's Hamad Airport.

Imad Gholmieh

MANAGING DIRECTOR, NESMA & PARTNERS

038

Nesma & Partners is jointly held by Nesma Holding, Atheeb Holding, Kalid Ali Alturki & Sons and Rawabi Holding. Nesma and Partners is the engineering and construction division of Nesma Holding, and has been a contributor to Saudi Arabia's industrial and infrastructure sectors since 1981.

Nesma is also recognised for its operations in heavy industrial sectors, such as oil and gas, petrochemicals, and power and water.

Given that secured revenues for 2015 have shot up 100% on the previous year to $1.16bn (SAR4.37bn), business is clearly booming for the Saudi Arabian contractor.

The builder will be involved in some of the Kingdom's major infrastructure projects over the next 12 months. Nesma is main contractor on the King Adbul Aziz Road (KAAR Project) in Makkah. The second project is Riyadh Metro, where it is part of a consortium, which will deliver a $6bn contract for line three. At 40.7km, this is the longest single line, and will also involve the design and build of the Downtown Qasr-Al-Hokm Metro Station.

Imad Gholmieh says that the transport sector will remain the firm's biggest money-spinner over the next 12 months, but he faces the challenge of securing the requisite skilled labour to cope with the wave of new projects set to commence in the period.

With 22,000 employees under his care, Gholmieh places great emphasis on personnel training, which includes career development, maximising productivity, improving motivation and maintaining safety. Human resource and other department heads must also undergo periodic needs analyses, he says.

"The transport sector will remain Nesma's biggest money-spinner over the next 12 months"

$6BN

Value of Nesma's contract for Riyadh Metro